

Leon Sculy (1853-1912), the first dean, professor and defender of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Iasi

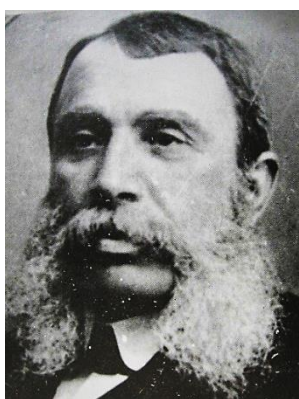
Dana Baran

"Grigore T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Iasi-Romania

Abstract. Professor Leon Logothetidis Sculy (1853-1912) was a towering personality of the Medical Faculty of Iasi at its beginning. He graduated the famous Faculty of Medicine in Montpellier and defended his doctoral degree thesis in Paris. Then he returned to Romania and developed his activity in Iasi. He was appointed secondary and later primary (chief) physician of the "St. Spiridon" Hospital and acquired excellent surgical skills in the Clinic of the celebrated Dr. Ludovic Russ senior. In 1879, when the Faculty of Medicine of Iasi was eventually created, Dr. Sculy was appointed substitute professor of Anatomy and Histology and its dean. On December 1, 1879, in front of the first 14 students, he delivered the first course that was an Anatomy lecture. As a dean, he contributed to the organization and equipment of the laboratories and of other educational spaces and to the selection of the didactic and nondidactic staff. In 1881 he resigned from his position as a dean and was transferred from the chair of Anatomy to that of Surgery and Ophthalmology, whose head he became. In 1886, he was promoted full professor. Professor Sculy fulfilled this task for about 30 years (1881-1912). From 1881 to 1882 he also directed the Clinic of Dermato-Syphilography. He founded the second Surgery Clinic at the "St. Spiridon" Hospital where he introduced asepsis besides antiseptics and pioneered radiodiagnosis. Prof. Sculy was innovative and bold. He performed complex surgical interventions and applied new surgical procedures, e.g., Delorme decortication technique. He used the Lambotte osteo-synthesis device, practiced the first hysteropexia, and operated both neurological and ocular pathologies. In fact, there was "no organ left in the human body that he had not approached..." His contemporaries and followers characterized him as extremely intelligent and witty, dominant and impulsive, severe, yet extremely fair both with his students and patients. He is considered one of the founders of the surgery school of Iasi, together with Professors Russ senior and Constantin Bottez. Leon Sculy constantly and devotedly supported the Faculty of Medicine of Iasi, its existence and legitimate interests.

Keywords: Leon Sculy, surgery, University, Iasi

Biographical sketch. Leon Sculy-



Logothetidis (Logothetides) or Logotheti (Logothety) or, simply, Leon Sculy (Fig.1), was born in a family of Greek origin in 1853 in Piatra Neamt, a mountain town

Fig 1. Prof. dr. Leon Sculy about 131 km from Iasi. His father, the ban Sculy Logothetides (Sculy: initially a first name, later changed into a

Corresponding author: Dana Baran
dana_baran@yahoo.com

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surname), was a small-ranking boyar settled in Piatra Neamț, and his mother was Caliopei Caraghioz. (Fig.2) Leon had a brother, the lawyer Vasile Sculy (1844-1918), deputy and senator, married to Sofia Exarhu, and a sister, Cleopatra. At maturity both Leon and Vasile Sculy lived in Iasi. Vasile Sculy was the owner of some beautiful boyar houses in the Moldavian capital, one of them being the headquarters of the Jockey Club (1875). Not only Vasile but also Leon Sculy was a member of this association. (11) Two other buildings they possessed belonged for a time to the “Spiridonia” Establishments, one of whose epitropes Vasile Sculy was in 1900. Indeed, two historical and architectural landmarks of the old city were somehow connected with the name of the Sculy Logothetides family and the “Spiridonia” Hospitals: the “Sculy” House – for a while the headquarters of the Institute of Archeology on Lascar Catargi Street (Română Street), and the “Cricket” Villa (Villa “Greierul”) at Bucium, in Iasi surroundings. In 1938, Eduard, Leon Sculy’s son, gave Spiridonia a quarter of the edifice on Catargi street, estimated at about 3 million lei, but later, Vasile and Leon Sculy’s descendants donated the entire building to the “St. Spiridon” Epitropy that, since 1949, appeared in the records of the Iași City Hall as the sole owner of the construction. (8) Unfortunately, because of the political changes that occurred in the country after World War II, this proved to be a short-lived gift. The second building, data about which seem to be incomplete and uncertain, is the present day “Dr. Clunet” Children’s Pneumophtisiology Hospital, the former “Cricket” Villa. Built between 1880 and 1890, it was sometimes attributed to Dr. Leon Sculy, but it is generally considered as the property of his brother, Vasile Sculy. (6, 11) According to Felicia and Olivier Dumas, the house would have been donated to the

Ministry of Health in 1910. (6) However, no such Ministry existed in Romania by then. In fact, the Romanian Ministry of Health was inaugurated only in 1922. But in 1910 a Sanitary Law was enacted that laid the basis of the General Direction of the Sanitary Service within the Ministry of the Interior. Consequently, Regional Sanitary Inspectorates and The House of Rural Public Health were created as well.



Fig. 2. Piatra Neamț. Eternity Cemetery. Family Sculy’s funeral monument (by the French sculptor Dugray)

Offered to the State during the First World War (1916-1918), the French Medical Mission organi-sed a hospital there for contagious patients, especially those affected by exanthematic typhus. It was set up by a team led by the famous French doctor Jean Clunet (1878-1917), who himself died in that place on April 3, 1917, touched by the relentless wing of that ravaging epidemic.

Anyway, although Vasile Sculy died in 1918, in the winter of 1916, on the arrival of the doctors and nurses of the French Medical Mission, the “Cricket” Villa was already “abandoned” without any water installation and providing a disappointingly minimal comfort, as described in her Diary by Sister Geneviève Hennet de Goutel (1885-1917), the young nun who died of typhus in that refuge of suffering, misery and fear, on March 4, 1917. (7)

Afterwards the Villa was seemingly sold to the state and in 1922 the first sanatorium/preventorium in the country for treating children with tuberculosis was established there: the “Dr. Clunet” Hospital.

Studies and perspectives. Leon Sculy studied primary school at Piatra Neamt, but high school in Italy, at Pisa. (9,15) He started medicine in France, at the renowned Faculty of Montpellier, and after obtaining his license there, he went to Paris, where he prepared and received his doctorate defending a thesis on the treatment of rheumatism with sodium salicylate, a topic equally addressed at the time by the eminent French neurologist, Professor Dr. Alfred Vulpian (1826-1887)¹.

His passages through various Western European academic communities influenced for good the intellectual formation of the young Leon Sculy, endowed with a keen mind and an iron will, with surprising power of thought and remarkable capacity for synthesis.

Returning to Romania, Dr. Sculy settled down in Iasi where he had the chance to be appointed secondary physician of the “St. Spiridon” Hospital in the service of the prominent surgeon of the time, Dr. Ludovic Russ senior (1816-1888), future professor of Operative Surgery, under whose leadership

and supervision Sculy perfected his innate surgical talent and acquired skills. He was Russ senior’s assistant, collaborator and successor. (12) Thus Sculy became, in a relatively short lapse of time, a true Master, qualified to perfectly continue his eminent forerunner’s work.

Leon Sculy was married to Smaranda Cincu, with whom he had a son, Doctor Eduard Sculy, and three daughters: Maria-Antoaneta, Margareta and Georgeta. He got involved in the socio-political life of the country, being elected deputy. An admirer of Take Ionescu, the brother of the brilliant surgeon Thoma Ionescu, he was one of the people from Iași who used to congratulate this politician on his name day every year. Here is the text of such a common telegram, reproduced after Rudolf Sutu:

“Your name day is a happy occasion for us as we are able to renew our feelings of admiration to you, wishing you long life, so that your fruitful work may render the country, happy, and the Conservative Party, glorious.” (10)

Innovative surgeon and head of clinic.



Fig.3. Iasi. Anastasie Basota House

Advanced to the degree of primary physician of the “St. Spiridon” Hospital, Sculy came into conflict with the Epitropy, directly with the epitrope A. D. Holban. The incident

¹A. Vulpian. *Du mode d'action du salicylate de soude dans le traitement du rhumatisme articulaire aigu*, Paris: Hachette, 1881.

started when a steward of Spiridonia Establishment hit a Jewish student. Not only his colleagues but also Professors Sculy and Bastaky (Bastachi /Bastaki/Bastache) sympathized with him, all asking the Epitropy (Administration) to dismiss its guilty employee. In reply, these remarkable teachers saw their clinics evacuated to the hospital yard and the patients transferred to equivalent services. Therefore, in 1890, the dean of the Faculty, Prof. dr. Eugen Rizu, with the financial support of the Ministry of Public Instruction, found the solution of renting additional spaces for the surgical department, as well as for the obstetrics department (Prof. Bastaky), in the house of the boyar Anastasie Basota, in Sararie street, no.12-14 (Targul Cucului), where the clinics also benefited from appropriate facilities (Fig.3)

There, in that "Clinical Hospital", for almost three years (1890-1893) Sculy operated and taught enthusiastically with the desire to improve the academic surgical education, which was just taking shape in Iasi. In 1903 another conflict broke out when the General Epitropy appointed a secondary doctor at the Professor's Surgical Clinic without consulting him. This determined Professor Sculy's refusal to accept the young doctor to his Clinic. Consequently, the Epitropy no longer directed patients for surgical treatment and dressings to Dr. Leon Sculy's Service. (13, 14) Sometimes, to all these facts, the more or less arbitrary behaviour of the "Head of the Clinic" had to be added.

The General Epitropy also accused Prof. Sculy of serious violations of the Regulations and Orders in force: "The honorable Professor leaves work without being on holidays and abandons the service to the secondary doctor, who so far has only the internship of internal medicine." In addition, Dr. Sculy fired Dr. Nicolae

Apotheker and Dr. Victor Doca from the Clinic without submitting a motivation report to the Epitropy. (14)

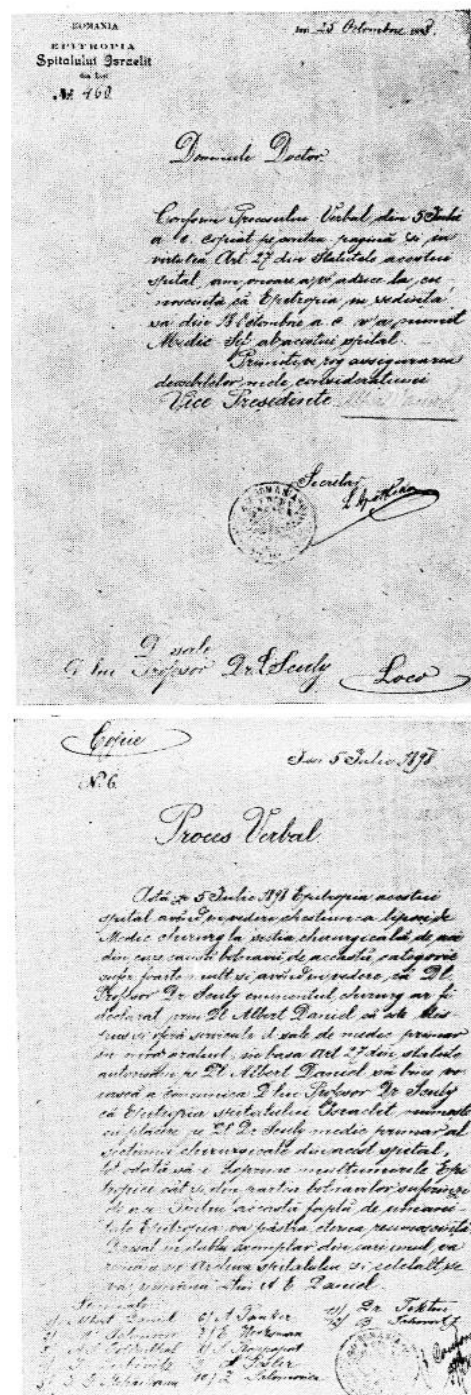


Fig. 4. Appointment of Dr. Sculy as chief (primary) physician of the Israelite Hospital in Iasi. (8)

On June 12, 1906, Prof. Leon Sculy asked the Epitropy to organize in his Surgery Service a section for combating tuberculosis, consisting of two rooms where 20 patients could be hospitalized experiencing a "new treatment" for this disease in full swing. His very summary request was rejected.

In the long run, the consequence of such controversies was the redefinition of the relations between the Epitropy, a private foundation, and the Faculty of Medicine, a state institution, which had obviously to lay its clinical basis in the old "St. Spiridon" Establishment, which has since become a University Hospital. Such Regulations were clearly formulated in 1893-1896 and 1904. (13)

Professor Sculy was also appointed, with great reverence, chief physician of the Israelite Hospital in Iasi, where he headed the surgical department for a while, with Dr. Blumenfeld, Dr. Braunstein and Dr. Ochs as his assistants. (8) (Fig.4-5)



Fig.5. Iași. Former Israelite Hospital - today, "Elena Doamna" Maternity Hospital

Particularly energetic and hardworking, an innovative spirit like his Master, Prof. dr. Russ sr., Professor Sculy introduced to practice revolutionary methods specific to the moment, modernizing Romanian surgery. In the years when debates still persisted, similarly to Professor Constantin Dimitrescu Severeanu in Bucharest, Leon Sculy adopted in Iasi the rules of asepsis, besides those of

antisepsis. Also in Iasi, Professor Constantin Bottez did the same, although he was a much more conservative personality. Sculy replaced, for instance, the sublimate with less toxic antiseptics, such as the hydrogen peroxide, and used the autoclave, the poupinel and sterilized water for hand washing in the Clinic, even imagining a device for sterilizing suture materials. At that time, no sterilized gowns, masks or gloves were used. (1)

Persuaded of the importance of radiological examination, in 1899, shortly after the discovery of X-rays by Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen (1895), he installed in his service the first radiodiagnosis device.

Passionate surgeon, brave and sure about the special therapeutic potential of surgery, he contributed to the creation of the Second Surgical Clinic in the structures of Spiridonia, where his Clinic had 42-50 beds. With a lot of cold blood and self-control, he performed General Surgery operations, implemented laborious and innovative surgical techniques in abdominal and thoraco-pulmonary surgery as well as in orthopedics. In 1897, 549 patients were treated in his Service, summing up 16,347 days of hospitalization.

He first applied in Romania the Delorme method for pleural decortication in chronic purulent pleurisy (December 1904 - January 1905). (16) He practiced supravaginal and total hysterectomies, the first hysteropexia, ovarian cyst operations, several interventions in the urogenital sphere, such as lithotripsy for bladder calculi and internal urethrotomies, laminectomies in fractures and in Pott's disease, the first gastrostomies and gastroenteroanastomoses. (9,12,13)

Sculy was a forerunner of Romanian neurosurgery and neuro-ophthalmology, operating on cranio-cerebral wounds, meningoceles, but also ocular pathology: cataracts, keratitis etc. Leon Sculy used the

first Lambotte osteo-synthesis device in certain fractures and argued for its effectiveness, which he was firmly convinced of.

He performed great interventions on the abdomen with the same ease as in extreme fineness surgery at the ocular level, proving elegance and full confidence in his own dexterity. There was "no organ left in the human body that he had not approached and, in all his interventions, he kept his original note perfectly suited to his erudition and personal ideas" - his former students outlined. (15)

Like many intellectuals, including most of the Spiridonia leaders, Professor Sculy was a member of the Society of Physicians and Naturalists of Iasi.

Master and Dean. Leon Sculy represented the generation of young people trained abroad who had the opportunity to participate in the construction of the first Faculty of Medicine in Moldova in 1879. As it is known, attempts to establish higher medical education in the Principality of Moldavia dated back to at least 1851, when medical studies were required by the "Establishment for the Reorganization of Public Education .."; they were shyly transposed in real facts in 1852 with the School of Midwifery of Dr. Anastasie Fatu, reactivated in 1859 with the School of Surgery of Dr. Neculai Negura, then with the establishment of the University of Iasi in 1860, and in 1863, due to Dr. Ludovic Russ senior's Course of "Topographic Anatomy, Surgical Surgery, Dressings and Instruments", that began on August 1, 1863 and comprised 14 lessons during several months. However, it was not until 1879, that the conditions were more favorable for the *de facto* creation of the academic medical desideratum. Now the Ministry of Cults and Public Instruction provided in its budget two positions of professors and one position of

prosector for the Faculty of Medicine of Iasi, and by the address no.11389 of September 27, 1879 it urged the Rectorate to urgently recommend the persons who could hold these functions. Subsequently, four convocations of the University Council followed. On October 11, 1879, Dr. Gheorghe Iuliano was appointed substitute for the Department of Descriptive Anatomy and Histology, Professor Petru Poni for the Department of Medical Chemistry and Dr. Vasile Telemac (Telemaque) for the position of prosector.

On the other hand, Dr. Fatu, who could not attend the Council meetings, sent a letter to the Rector, Prof. dr. Petre Suciu, recommending Dr. Leon Sculy for Descriptive Anatomy, Dr. Ludovic Russ junior as prosector and Prof. Petru Poni for Medical Chemistry. (8, 9) The Minister of Instruction, Dr. Nicolae Kretzulescu, by telegram no.1339 of October 30, 1879 entrusted these chairs to doctors Sculy, Konya and Telemac, a provision ratified by address no.13455 of October 31, 1879. In conclusion, the Ministry of Education appointed as substitute professors Dr. Leon Sculy and Dr. Samuel Konya, at the departments of Descriptive Anatomy, and Medical Chemistry, respectively, and Dr. Vasile Telemac, as prosector at the chair of Anatomy. But, Dr. Konya, the well-known chemist and pharmacist, declined the offer or, according to other sources, did not receive the appointment by the Ministry, the lessons being held at the Faculty of Sciences, by Professor Poni. (5,9) For Anatomy, however, Dr. Leon Sculy won the case and, in 1879, at only 26 years of age, by decree no. 13452/1879, he became the first professor of anatomy and histology of the Faculty of Medicine of Iasi. The same year, he was elected the first dean of this institution, a position he held from 1879 to 1881. (4,5)

Therefore, Leon Sculy, secondary physician at the surgical department of the

highly reputed Dr. Russ senior from the "St. Spiridon" Hospital was the first professor who, on December 1, 1879, opened the courses of the Faculty of Medicine of Iasi, whose syllabus had probably come from Bucharest. (9)

In front of the first 14 students, Sculy gave the inaugural lesson, which was an anatomy lecture. It seems that no opening ceremony was organised.

He was the first in a long line of hopes that the young generation of doctors of the "St. Spiridon" House fulfilled by founding higher medical education in the capital of Moldavia.

In the school year 1879-1880, the Ministry of Public Instruction granted him, as dean, 5,000 lei for the purchase of "instruments for injections and dissections", and in 1880-1881, the Ministry allocated the amount of 4,000 francs for the further purchase of the necessary material. (5) It was highly needed to develop a minimum base of equipment for the fundamental disciplines of the first years, especially anatomy. Prof. Sculy fought for the achievement of these first medical university structures in Iasi, where major material difficulties had to be overcome: lack of laboratories and qualified staff, appointments without a contest, inadequate educational spaces, the poverty of the Faculty that remained a constant challenge. (Fig.6)

In the academic year 1880-1881 there were sixteen students in the first year and eight in the second. Five new disciplines and substitute professors were integrated: Leon Cosmovici – Zoology and Botany; Ludovic Russ junior – Surgical Pathology; Theodor Stihi – Physiology; Theodosie Philipescu – Pathology and General Therapeutics; Ion C. Stravolca – Physics. Professors Poni and Sculy continued their activity. (5)

In his position as dean, Sculy often felt the pressure exerted by various potentates

who asked him to appoint or promote certain teachers, and to which the Professor responded directly: "it is much easier for Prof. Billroth to learn Romanian than for candidate-X to understand something of what Billroth is doing." (9) A certain hostility of the "Ministerial Center" and of his colleagues in the Capital was manifest, too.

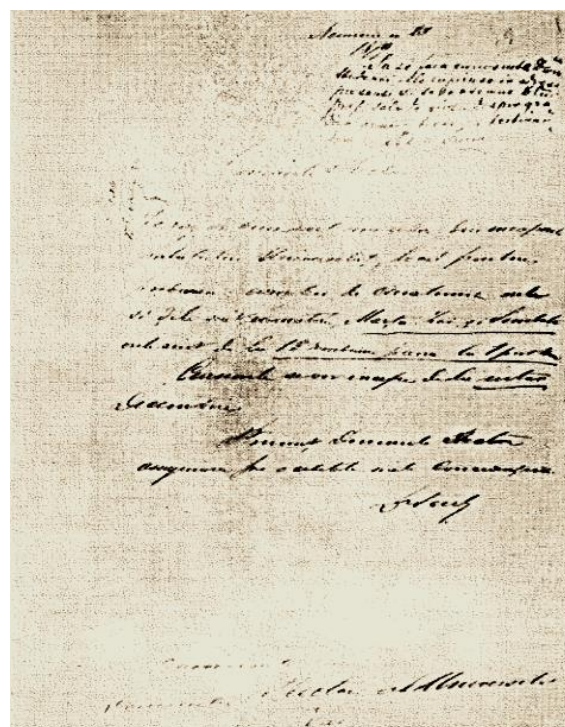


Fig. 6. The request addressed by Prof. Sculy to the Rector, Prof. Petru Suciu, for the assignment of the room necessary for the first course of Anatomy (November 1879)

As pointed out in his Obituary, published in the *Bulletin of the Society of Physicians and Naturalists of Iasi*, in 1879 he "had to take a course for which he was not prepared, and this in rather unfavorable conditions; he was obliged to submit a considerable amount of work, in order to master the arid study of anatomy... However, his efforts were not in vain, as the knowledge he thus acquired paved the way for him in the field of Surgery." ... "An honest colleague, a very distinguished character, Dr. Sculy has

always behaved like a champion of justice, in the meetings of the Faculty Council, as well as in those of the University Senate. He sometimes pushed the excess to violence, but even those he attacked ended up by apologizing for the purity of his intentions and the nobility of the ideas he defended. He always sacrificed his personal interests when the general interest was at stake.” “Our medical school had a zealous and devoted defender in him, especially when it was threatened in its vivid labours even by those it warmed and fed to its breast.” (15)

In 1881, Prof. Sculy resigned from the position of dean and retired from the Department of Anatomy, where substitute professor was appointed Dr. Aristide Peride, who completed, indeed, Sculy's pioneering work. The dean's office was entrusted to Professor dr. Ioan Ciurea (1881-1889). Sculy honored the Discipline of Histology until 1884, when he was succeeded by Prof. dr. Vasile Negel.

Creator of a surgical school. In 1881, Sculy took over the Department of Surgery and Ophthalmology Clinics by transfer as a substitute professor. Five years later, on July 22, 1886, he was promoted to full professor. (2,3,4) Sculy was assisted by Dr. N. Negura until 1903 and, honorarily, by Dr. N. Apothecker.(2) In parallel, from 1881 to 1882, he coordinated the Dermato-Syphiligraphic Clinic, too. (2) He ran the Surgical Clinic until March 1, 1912 (1881-1912), when, “feeling the attack of his recurring disease, he asked for and obtained a leave on health grounds.” (15) He passed away unexpectedly, when only 59 years old, after a single month of suffering, the death occurring on April 13, 1912, in the Sculy house on the current Lascar Catargi street in Iași. With over 30 years of activity, Leon Sculy developed one of the longest careers as a surgeon in the medical city of the Iași of yore.

He was succeeded by Dr. Amza Jianu from Bucharest who was promoted to professor of Surgery Clinic. Continuing his predecessor's tradition he further developed radiology in this Service as well.

As a professor of surgery, Dr. Sculy mainly taught lessons at the patient's bedside. His exposures were clear, analyzing the symptoms one by one, like true clinicians. His perspective was that of a general pathologist, making “observations, the importance of which was revealed in the eyes of the students ..., who followed his courses with attention, ardor and sympathy.” Even though “very severe with the students, he showed them the greatest impartiality” - his Obituary, signed simply “T” (i.e, Ion Tanasescu), underlined. Some data also attest to the elaboration of a lithographed course, probably by his students, with accurate anatomy drawings, accompanied by related explanations. (9)

Along with Professor Ludovic Russ senior and Professor Constantin Bottez, Professor Sculy was one of the first three teachers to lay the foundations of the surgery school in Iasi - said Prof. dr. Paul Anghel, one of Sculy's best disciples. (1) It was this triumvirate of the Iasi school of surgery that for about two decades enabled important representatives of Romanian surgery to be trained in the “Spiridonia” Establishments at the dawn of modernity.

Always guided by a scientific, rationalist spirit, with didactic grace and with the art of the Master, he consolidated an exceptional school, having as representatives Ernest Juvara – already educated in Paris and Bucharest, Ion Tanasescu and Paul Anghel – previously specialized in Paris, Nicolae Hortolomei and, in the long run, Vladimir Butureanu, Gheorghe Chipail, Oscar Franche.

Later some of them gave also shine to the Bucharest medical school. As the notable

iatro-historian Prof. dr. Valeriu Bologa observed: “although the University of Iasi was smaller, compared to the one in the country's capital, its didactic and scientific level was generally, from the very beginning, high, contributing o the full formation of a good Romanian medical body, to the promotion of valuable scientific research.”

Thanks to his merits and prestige, Leon Sculy was elected to the National Committee for the Congress of Physicians in Paris. In 1900, in an impressive Romanian delegation, together with Prof. Constantin Thiron, representative of the Ministry of Public Instruction, Prof. Gabriel Socor and Dr. Alexandru Theodori, Prof. Sculy participated in the XIIIth International Congress of Medicine, organized from August 2 to 9 in Paris, on the occasion of the International Exhibition. (13)

Significantly, after the Palace of the Surgical Clinics of the “St. Spiridon” Hospital was inaugurated in Iasi in 1933, in the large access hall, near the entrance to the Amphitheater (Lecture Hall), among other Masters who brilliantly brought the tradition to present day standards and ennobled it, the bust of Prof. dr. Leon Sculy Logothetides stands as a symbolic guard. (Fig.7)

He devotedly loved the Faculty of Medicine, where he had also laid a foundation stone, opposing its dismantlement ordered by the Minister in 1884. That year, 1884, although he was no longer a dean, Prof. Leon Sculy was part of the University of Iasi delegation that, led by Prof. A. D. Xenopol, also included Petru Missir and Miltiade Tzony. The protest of the Iasi University, whose rector was Professor Nicolae Culianu, was equally supported by the Society of Physicians and Naturalists, the Society for the Education of the Romanian People, by the press and the intellectuals of Iasi, all pleading in Bucharest the cause of the Iasi Faculty of Medicine. Finally, the

abrogation of the decision to abolish the faculty was obtained, and at the same time important funds were approved for the construction of a new headquarters, suitable for the University of Iasi which was expanding, and for the endowment of laboratories. It was since then that the Faculty of Medicine was allowed to appoint full professors and not only substitute ones; it was permitted students to defend doctoral theses and doctoral degrees in medicine and surgery to be granted. Thus, the Medical Faculty of Iasi gained prestige and students did not have any more to study the last year in Bucharest in order to defend their thesis and obtain a doctorate in medicine and surgery, hence the right to practice medicine. (5,9)



Fig.7.Surgery Professor L. Sculy (1835-1912)

Even though in 1879, when the Medical Faculty came into being, many people talked about an "imaginary faculty", no one denied the qualities of a personality like that of Leon Sculy. Persons like him "have too much regard for the scientific chairs of the college, knowing how much a man must possess in order to fulfill his duty conscientiously in such a position... As far as we know, they are amazed at how easily others receive similar appointments." (9) The famed Professor of Medical and Therapeutic Chemistry, Emanoil Riegler, corresponding member of the Romanian Academy, appreciated two very special character traits of Sculy: the medical ethical spirit, highlighted especially in his protest against the idea that the Epitropy should charge hospitalization fees to foreigners and an apparent material disinterest, refusing extra payment at the Spiridonia Hospital. In fact, the Professor was renowned and had a large and wealthy private clientele so that he could afford such a humane behavior.

As to his presence, his former collaborator, Professor Anghel, described him as a person with a lively temperament, that always led him into conflicts, but, no less, "...he had a fine, sympathetic face, he wore favorites, he was medium-sized, robust, very intelligent and extremely witty..". (1) (Fig.8)

Exemplifying this side of his character, here are two stories told by the memorialist Rudolf Suțu: Dr. Sculy was part of the Baccalaureate Commission, agreeing to make jokes with the candidates. At an exam, he asked a young lady about the electrophori. Describing the device, the young woman mentioned that it consists of a hair, and the Doctor's question was prompt: male or female? On another occasion, a candidate was asked to describe Saussure's room, her answer being that "the combination takes

place in the dark." The Professor's reply was not long in coming: "Shameful phenomenon, miss, let's move on to another matter." (11)

"Distinguished professor" of the University, "He was a changeable man - concluded Suțu; sometimes kind to the point of excess, sometimes indebted to everyone, sometimes on the contrary. But what he never lacked was the fine irony he used every now and then. He was familiar with everyone: the sick and the students." (10)



Fig.8.Iasi. "Grigore T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy. Institute of Anatomy. Prof. Dr. Leon Sculy. Bas-relief in the Great Amphitheater.

In his turn, Professor Tanasescu synthesized Leon Sculy's imposing personality: "Proud of himself, he advanced in life with his head held high, as a man to

whom the conscience reproaches nothing, and as a being to whom nature has shown itself generous in all its gifts, happy to share with those who had asked him the benefits of his talent and the effects of his greatness of soul.” (15)

These were several aspects of the complex portrait of a pioneering Master of Romanian surgery, thanks to whom today's Medical University of Iasi successfully accomplished its first steps.

Conflict of Interest

Author has no conflict of interest to disclose.

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